



COMMISSION on Gang Prevention & Intervention

Minutes

In-Person Meeting

Monday, March 24th, 2025

In-Person Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Location: 3060 54th St. San Diego Ca. 92105

Chair: D'Andre Brooks | Vice Chair: Jamie Wilson | Secretary: open seat

Commissioners Present: D'Andre Brooks, Maria Fernanda Ezquerro, Steve Dorsey rep. for Dr. Fabiola Bagula, Daniel Grubbs rep. for Scott Wahl, Sheryl Jones rep. for Summer Stephan, Dr. Alberto Vasquez, Rajali Walker, Tracey L. Swafford, Derrick Mosely, Andrew Haden

Commissioners Absent: Elizabeth Bustos, Kelly Martinez, Tara McGrath, Tamika Nelson, Mario Valladolid, Jamie Wilson, Lon Chayy, Rachel Bereza, Godwin Higa

Executive Director present: Pastor Jesus Sandoval

Public Comment on an Agenda Item: If you wish to address the Board on an item for today's agenda, please complete and submit a speaker form before the Commission hears the agenda item. You will be called at the time the item is heard.

Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda: You may address the Commission on any matter not listed on today's agenda. Please complete and submit a speaker form. However, California's open meeting laws do not permit the Commission to discuss or take any action on the matter at today's meeting. At its discretion, the Board may add the item to a future meeting agenda or refer the matter to staff or committee. Individuals' comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. At the discretion of the Chair, if a large number of people wish to speak on the same item, comments may be limited to a set period of time per item.

Item 1: **Call to Order:** Chair D'Andre Brooks

Item 2: **Roll Call:** Commissioners present.

Item 3: **Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 27th, 2025**
(Minutes Approved.)

Item 4: **Public Comment:**

Marsha Lyon of Say San Diego: Hosting San Diego Unity Games, a 3 on 3 basketball tournament, in partnership with District 9 and at Dennis V. Allen Park on Saturday, June 14, 2025, from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Encouraging youth to sign up. Resource tables will be available for those interested. Food and beverages will be provided.

Michael Garcia of Vista Hill: as a drug impatient treatment specialist he is witnessing drug impatient treatment center closures. If the last group home facility in Lemon Grove closes in June 2025, there will no longer be a facility to accept Medi-Cal for the youth.

Item 5: **Commissioner Reports:**

a. **San Diego Police Department (Lt. Campbell):** 46 shootings handled by the Gang Unit in 2024, the highest in the last 10 years was in 2021 (71 shootings), the lowest in the last 10 years was in 2017 (22 shootings). 2014 (45 shootings), 2015, (54 shootings), 2016 (43 shootings), 2017 (22 shootings), 2018 (38 shootings), 2019 (56 shootings), 2020 (70 shootings), 2021 (71 shootings), 2022 (63 shootings), 2023 (52 shootings), 2024 (46 shootings), 17 homicides in 2021 (the rate is declining), 2024 (3 homicides). Gang Invention Unit focuses on getting children and adults the resources they need. The youth football camp with the LA Chargers was a success. There were 15 participants on the first day and 17 on the second day. Hosted a graffiti clean-up project in the Central District. There were 8 volunteers. Graffiti can be reported in the City of San Diego's Get It Done App. There is a 72 hour turn around response. The Gang Unit had a mentee who enlisted in the military and another who enrolled in college. The Gang Unit is still present in 9 schools throughout the city.

b. **San Diego County Probation Department:** (No report)

Item 6: **Presentations:**

Youth Empowerment by Arturo Soriano: They have successful afterschool program for the youth in conjunction with the San Diego Unified School District and the Department of Restorative Justice, hosted at the YMCA and their office in City Heights. They work with approximately 100 students on a weekly basis Monday-Friday. They also sponsor an adult re-entry population program. Working on a Project Safe Neighborhood pilot program in collaboration with the US Attorney's Office. Out of eight participants in the program, they've been able to hire 3, who are still on federal probation. In effort to deal with trauma response, they are sponsoring another resource program called Organizational Transformational Program; a professional development training series consisting of 4 principles and a 6-step process of change.

Peacemaker Partners: the Peacemaker Project in collaboration with U.P.A.C., focus on improving the overall well-being of the underserved, diverse members of the community, aiding in over 30 languages and 15 locations in the city. In their partnership with Peacemakers, they offer entrepreneurial programs such as culinary arts training and graphic design grant and multimedia training. Along with the Peacemaker Project, they've been able to host and serve 40 youth. A café in City Heights, a Pizzeria downtown, and a print shop also partner and help support the youth as well.

Community Wrap-Around is also in collaboration and connects youth and families through collaborative efforts with resources and guidance in purpose of restoring the foundation based on faith, hope, and love. They collaborate with 2 programs for youth and families, Living Spirits Community Mentoring and Juvenile Justice & Family Advocacy Program. Both programs cover North and South Counties for youth ages 12 to 24 y/o involved in the juvenile court system. The program supports at-promise youth, youth diversion and initiative, youth on probation, detained youth at the Youth Transition facilities. They provide educational resources, facilitate discussions, 1-on-1 mentoring, case management, court advocacy, along with a plethora of other resources.

Core Six collaborates with the Elevate Youth Program. Their mission is to equip youth with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to become leaders and break cycles of violence in their communities. It's based on the core 6 competencies: entrepreneurship, job readiness, financial literacy, life skills, civic engagement, and community outreach to prepare youth for success. They recently celebrated 30 graduates from the program. They are initiating a new program that focuses on civic engagement for youth 12-26 y/o to explore different boards and engagement. The program financially compensates participants for learning about various opportunities.

Open Heart Leaders is an African-American led organization that offers youth wraparound services for mental health education and justice reform. Their mission is to adapt to the everchanging necessities of the community with focuses on mental health. The grant allows them to fund 12 therapy sessions to those impacted by community violence. They currently have 12 openings for family and couple therapy sessions. For mor information follow their Instagram account. They offer a high school diploma program in downtown, currently with 4 graduates. They need 30 more participants by June 2025, or the program with be terminated.

Dr. Andy Glum, Executive Director for the Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at USD. He serves as the evaluation partner with the City of San Diego and the Peacemaker Project. They support the ongoing data collection for the project that required by CalVIP, develop a plan for a comprehensive evaluation and implementation within 6 months by the end of the budget. So far there are 400+ participants in the program. They provide mentoring, housing and legal services, basic needs (i.e., food, toiletries). Out of 450 participants, 171 participants have successfully exited the program.

Item 7: Presentations Discussion:
Q & A.

Item 8: Outreach:

- a. CAST Walk and Knock, March 25th, 2025 (Southeastern):
- b. CAST Walk and Knock, March 27th, 2025 (Mid-City):

monthly meetings from 8:00 AM-9:30 AM with 3 law enforcement entities and community agencies. They perform a walk and knock within the community where an act of violence occurred, to do a wellness check. The goal is to find out what resources the community needs and support to victims of violence, to those on drugs or are homeless.

Item 9: Executive Director Pastor Jesus Sandoval

- a. **Peacemaker Project Cohort 5:** Launched in 2022-June 2025; the grant ends. A no cost extension has been requested till December 2026. The Office of Government Affairs is assisting with applying for Cohort 5. Hired consultants, Amanda Brown to collect data and Dr. Andy Glum and Tory from the University of San Diego. The program enables us to offer support to the untroubled youth. We've been able to offer support to 300+ families.
- b. **Handle With Care (Projected Launch Date Mid-October of 2025):**
The SD Unified School District will facilitate the meetings, along with training from the District Attorney's Office.
- c. **Monthly CAST meetings 2nd Thursday of the month 8am-9:30a:** *(listed above under Outreach section.)*
- d. **Retreat May 3rd 9am-1pm at the Southeast Livewell Center:** Proposed date of April 12th is still pending. The next suggested date is May 3rd. Commissioners are asked to come up with new KPIs, goal, or objectives in the area of Gang Prevention and Intervention for the updating of the Strategic Plan. A template from the City is pending. Once the data is collected, it will be shared at the retreat. Commission Higa Godwin will be doing a trauma response training.

Item 10: **Chair announcement:** complimented Peacemaker project team and stated that he was working with community partners to keep the peace within the city.

Item 11: **Commissioner Comments:** April 12th from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM SANDAG is hosting youth Arts & Sciences Expo at the SD Association of Government.

U.P.A.C. meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month on 54th and University
From 6:00 PM-8:30 PM.

Item 12: **Adjournment**

REQUESTS FOR ACCESSIBILITY MODIFICATIONS OR ACCOMMODATIONS

This information will be made available in alternative formats upon request, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), by contacting Chida Warren-Darby at (619)533-3940 or cwarrendarby@sandiego.gov. Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations required to facilitate meeting participation, including requests for alternatives to observing meetings and offering public comment as noted above, may be made by contacting Chida Warren-Darby at (619)533-3940 or cwarrendarby@sandiego.gov. Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations required to facilitate meeting participation, including requests for auxiliary aids, services, or interpreters, require different lead times, ranging from five business days to two weeks. Please keep this in mind and provide as much advance notice as possible to ensure availability. The city is committed to resolving accessibility requests swiftly in order to maximize accessibility.

Next Commission meeting scheduled for **May 19th, 2025**, 6pm- 8pm
3060 54th St. San Diego Ca.92105